Persons allowed to travel free of cost

3363. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names of persons who have been allowed to travel in AC-I free of charges, during last six months, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Senior railway officials in service/after retirement are permitted to travel in AC-Ist class free of charge. Free travel in AC-Ist class is also permitted to lifetime achievers in different fields, such as Sports, Art and Culture, Music, etc.

The list is not maintained State-wise and would be quite voluminous.

LTC entitlement to railway employees

3364. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LTC entitlement to railway employees, grade-pay-wise;

(b) whether LTC entitlement in Railways is not in conformity with the rest of Government of India guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for difference in LTC facilities for railway employees; and

(d) the steps Government will take to remove such differences and facilitate the railway employees to avail LTC facilities at par with other Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The railway employees are governed by Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 which entitle them to rail travel facilities on Privilege Passes/ Privilege Ticket Orders. LTC is not applicable to railway employees. No change is under consideration.

Loss to Railways in passenger services

3365. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses per year sustained by Railways in their passenger services;

(b) the class of service and the geographical sectors which account for most of these losses; and

(c) the additional freight/tonne imposed on goods traffic due to these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During 2008-09, Railways incurred a loss of Rs.13,957.79 crore (provisional) on passenger and other coaching services.

(b) Second Class and Sleeper Class passenger services account for most of the losses. Geographical sector- wise data is not maintained by the Railways.

(c) No additional freight per tonne has been imposed on goods traffic on account of losses on passenger services.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail link

3366. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work related to gauge conversion between Bhiladi-Samdari has been completed in all respect in this sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the gauge conversion would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdhari is in progress. The main line has been linked and Engine trial of complete section has been done on 11.11.2009.

The finishing works are in progress. The gauge conversion is likely to be completed by the end of January, 2010.

Trains between Kasganj-Mathura section

3367. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains running on Kasganj-Mathura section before and after conversion of gauge;

(b) whether train services have deteriorated after gauge conversion;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to augment train services on that section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Prior to Gauge conversion of Mathura-Kasganj section, 7 pairs of train services (3 pairs of mail/Express services and 4 pairs of passenger trains) were operating on the Meter Gauge section. At present *i.e.* after gauge conversion, 5 pairs of special train services (2 pairs of mail/Express services and 3 pairs of passenger trains) are operating on the said Broad gauge section. To cater to the needs of the section, one pair of passenger train has been announced in the Railway Budget, 2009-10, which is in addition to the one pair of Express train service *viz.* 5107/5108 Mathura-Chhapra Express announced in Railway Budget, 2008-2009.